

Army deployed in lawless south Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanese army was deployed for the first time in eight years Tuesday in Beirut's lawless southern slums, the birthplace of Shiite Muslim extremists who use car bombers and hostage-takers were groomed.

The pre-dawn move was part of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's increasingly assertive drive to reestablish law and order in Lebanon after the anarchy of 15 years of civil war.

Nearly 2,000 troops rolled into the shantytowns at 4 a.m. (0200 GMT) and set up checkpoints on key intersections, main squares and Beirut's airport highway. No defiance was reported.

It was the first army deployment in the slums since regular troops were expelled by militias Feb. 6, 1984, which ignited another round of civil warfare with irregulars in the capital.

The Iranian-backed fundamentalist Hizbollah (Party of God) had then gradually built the predominantly Shiite-populated slums into its main power base.

Most of the American, British and French hostages taken by Hizbollah-affiliated groups since 1984 were held for years in the slums.

The Lebanese government, rendered helpless by the disintegration of the army during the 1975-1990 civil conflict, was unable to move in to free them.

It was inside the slums that the massive truck bombs were prepared for suicide bombings who blew up the U.S. embassy, the U.S. Marine base and the French paratroop headquarters in a multinational peacekeeping force in 1983.

More than 300 Americans and Frenchmen were killed in these attacks that were claimed by the

shadowy Islamic Jihad organisation, an underground offshoot of Hizbollah.

However, the party shifted from its hardline stance to a more pragmatic line after the 1989 death of Iranian patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and the accession of President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Hizbollah's current leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, welcomed the army's takeover of security functions in the slums.

"We have lately been supplying authorities with information about the locations of drug traffickers, currency counterfeit and prostitution nests," Sheikh Nasrallah said in a statement released shortly before the army's push. "We are happy the state is finally exerting its authority."

There was no report of any house raids mounted after the troops entered the slums. Token Syrian army units marched behind the Lebanese soldiers to demonstrate support.

Tuesday's move came four days after thousands of troops carried out raids across the country in a crackdown on outlaws, car thieves and drug traffickers ordered by Mr. Hariri's government.

At least one bandit was shot dead and dozens of suspects were disarmed and arrested in the operations.

Mr. Hariri's government, formed Oct. 31, has been getting tough with corrupt officials, greedy merchants and tax dodgers in a bid to restore state authority and discipline in Lebanon.

He is backed by Syria, the main power broker of Lebanon with 40,000 troops in the country as peacekeepers, and by Saudi Arabia.

Afghan Council meets amid boycott and threat

KABUL (AP) — A national council met Tuesday to begin choosing the country's next president, but most of the rebel chiefs who fought to bring Islamic government to Afghanistan stayed away and threatened renewed civil war.

The 1,400-member Council for Resolution and Settlement gathered at the Interior Ministry to decide who will govern Afghanistan for the next 10 years.

The delegates represent Afghanistan's 29 provinces as well as religious scholars, respected tribal elders and prominent rebel commanders who fought for 14 years to end communist rule of their country.

Besides selecting the next government, the council will choose 20 per cent of its members to act as the national parliament.

It is uncertain when the actual vote will take place. Interim President Burhanuddin Rabbani, a 53-year-old Islamic scholar who took office in June, is considered the front-runner.

But at least five of the main rebel parties that formed the coalition Islamic government in late April say they would not accept Mr. Rabbani for another term and dismiss the assembly as fraudulent.

Renegade rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, expelled from the leadership for his relentless attacks that killed thousands in Kabul last summer, threatened war unless the council was called off.

"Those delegates who respect the peoples' mandate and do not want further bloodshed should boycott this council," Mr. Hekmatyar said in a statement from his Pakistan-based office, the News Agency.

Mr. Hekmatyar's demand received unconditional support from a former enemy, Siyidatullah Mojaddidi, a moderate who



Burhanuddin Rabbani briefly served as caretaker president following the collapse of the former communist regime in late April.

Hezbollah-Wahadat, an eight-part coalition of Iranian-supported Shiite parties, also has vowed to start fighting if Mr. Rabbani is re-elected.

They and other rebel groups contend Mr. Rabbani's government tampered with the council's selection and paid tens of millions of Afghani to buy delegate votes.

But Mr. Rabbani denied the allegations and told the delegates: "I have every confidence in you."

Disagreements over the council and demands that Mr. Rabbani step down prompted sporadic clashes between pro-government forces and other rebel factions that have killed more than 50 and wounded scores in recent weeks.

The fighting also has included mutinous troops once part of the former communist army and militias that switched sides to help topple the regime of deposed President Najibullah in April.

Rashid Dostan, is now at odds with Mr. Rabbani's government for its refusal to recognise a political party he formed last spring.

Israeli Arab and rightist legislators stage shouting match

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli Arab legislator was the centre of a shouting match in parliament Monday that the house speaker called "one of the darkest moments in parliament history."

When Tawfik Ziyad of the communist Hadash party went up on the podium to address state child benefits, Rehavam Zeevi of the right-wing Moledet Party called out, "Stalin, Arafat, terrorist," Israel Radio said.

Uzi Landau of the Likud shouted out that he was sorry the parliament could not receive Mr. Ziyad in masks like the Palestinians he met with in the Gaza Strip, Israel Television said.

Mr. Landau was referring to a trip that Israeli Arab lawmakers made to Gaza to protest the

expulsion of 415 Palestinians.

Mr. Ziyad shot back at his hecklers: "Lunatic," "You disturbed interrupter" and finally "you, the crazy right ... you have a history of killing and murder."

Insults such as "You are drugged," and "Your mother is drugged" flew back and forth, the radio and television said.

The Arab legislator then refused repeated appeals by deputy Speaker Esther Salimovitz to step down, insisting he be allowed to speak.

After parliament guards failed to gently prod Mr. Ziyad from the podium, a short recess was called in which "Mr. Ziyad was convinced to sit down, said parliament spokesman Yair Amikam.

Mr. Amikam added that Speaker Shevach Weiss called the session "one of the darkest moments in parliament history."

Israel Television said Mr. Weiss and other parliament officers asked the house committee to address Mr. Ziyad's outburst. The committee can suspend Mr. Ziyad from five plenary sessions as punishment.

It was the second round of name-calling between Mr. Zeevi and Mr. Ziyad in two months as the right-wing opposition escalates attempts to delegitimise key Israeli Arab support of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's ruling coalition.

The raucous session also came amidst sharp criticism of Israeli

Moves for Islamic front comprise

(Continued from page 1)

internal laws to allow for a percentage of appointments on the front's consultative assembly and executive committee.

One Brotherhood source, who insisted on anonymity, revealed that Dr. Farhan had made this suggestion to independents on the eve of their resignation. At the time, the source said, the proposal was rejected.

But on Tuesday, an independent Islamist who is also a member of the front, said that the independents would probably accept such a compromise and would return to the front's ranks.

The proposal, as explained by sources, would mean that a percentage of the 120 consultative council 17-seat executive would be reserved for who are selected by who win in open election.

If such a proposal is accepted, it would be a move to incorporate into the front's ranks a percentage of independents through appointment.

Most of those who decided that an agreement was reached, said, set to elect the new consultative committee president of the front deputies.

Israel may seek face-saving solution

(Continued from page 1)

Some observers say the Palestinian leadership as the negotiators, credibility among the people if they decide the negotiating table stranded evictees do not have.

Those who expect a "face-saving" formula believe that Washington pressure on the Israeli side is a way out of the impasse.

The American aid has said that it is up to the Palestinians to decide if they want to continue the negotiations or not.

The delegates said that the Palestinians in Washington at the eighth round of bilateral talks this month that "everything he could do to get the evictees out of their homes."

The evictees' order but Rabin has plenty find a solution to them before the next round due to resume, said a official.

Other Palestinian observers, however, were not so optimistic that Israel would comply with Security Council Resolution 799, which calls on the Jewish state to return the evictees since it never complied with resolutions related to Palestinians, nor applied the Fourth Geneva Convention.

"The only way Israel would consider returning the evictees is by imposing another resolution that would force it to comply with international law, like imposing sanctions," a Palestinian analyst said.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday said that Israel should be punished for the expulsions.

Addressing an emergency meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union, Prince Hassan described the expulsions as a "flagrant violation of international law, and Israel's repeated disregard of U.N. resolutions makes it imperative for the world com-

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Ship 'loaded with Scud parts' inspected

AUGUSTA, Sicily (AP) — Experts on Tuesday were examining cargo from a Syrian-bound ship which arrived here a week ago with suspected Scud missile parts aboard, authorities said.

A port official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the cargo had been unloaded for experts who will report their findings to investigating magistrates in Syracuse who are looking into suspicions that the ship held parts that could modify a Scud to double the missile's range from 300 to some 600 kilometres. The ultimate destination of the suspected missile modification parts was not known.

Last week, the Milan newspaper Il Giornale reported that the ship's manifest had indicated that the parts were for the civilian and not military use. The Waalhaven, a merchant ship bearing the Estonian flag and rented by a Dutch company, docked in Augusta on Dec. 21. The port is north of Syracuse, in eastern Sicily. Noting that the ship began its voyage from Hamburg, Germany, Il Giornale reported that a German secret service investigation had led to the blocking of the ship.

"puppet" to fuel anti-Iranian propaganda. The agency reiterated that the death sentence against Mr. Rushdie was irrevocable. IRNA's commentary in English said Mr. Rushdie's "visits to European countries are at the order and coordination of the European Community and within the framework of anti-Iranian propaganda." It said that "the Rushdie circus plans in Europe and in North America are designed by British information (intelligence) agencies, because he considers his life over the past 1,400 days like a prisoner sentenced to death as being intolerable."

It said: "Playing with the beliefs of the world's billion-plus Muslims for short-term economic and political interests will have grave aftermath for these nations." It warned that relations with Paris would suffer if Mr. Rushdie were allowed to visit France to plead his case. Mr. Rushdie has said he would like to travel to France, which is among Iran's top trade partners, "as soon as possible."

Former Shah bodyguard kidnapped

ISTANBUL (AP) — An Iranian who reportedly once served as a bodyguard for the Shah was abducted near his house in an Istanbul suburb, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said Monday.

Anatolia quoted Zehra Gholizade as saying that she and her husband, former Iranian army Captain Abbas Gholizade, were returning home from shopping Saturday night when five bearded men approached and forced Capt. Gholizade into a minibus, which sped away. She said the men spoke in Farsi and threatened to kill the couple, according to Anatolia. Mrs. Gholizade said her husband had been a bodyguard of the Shah of Iran, who was toppled in 1979 by the Islamic revolution, Anatolia reported. She said her family had moved to Turkey 10 years ago. "We were threatened several times and each time we moved our home," the news quoted her as saying. Capt. Gholizade worked for a Paris-based Iranian human rights group, she added.

Bush to stop in S. Arabia on Friday

BAHRAIN (AP) — President George Bush will stop over in Saudi Arabia Friday for a meeting with King Fahd, Gulf-based U.S. diplomats said Tuesday. They said Mr. Bush will spend "a few hours" in the Saudi Red Sea port city of Jeddah after spending New Year's Eve with U.S. forces in Somalia. Since its inception in the early 1980s, Saudi Arabia has been the staunchest friend and ally of the United States in the Arab World. Mr. Bush and King Fahd fostered this and crowned it with the U.S.-led multinational operation that evicted Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Inspired by Saudi Arabia's pro-U.S. tendencies, the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council in its recent summit conference paid high tribute to Mr. Bush for his "honourable and heroic" support for the Arab countries of the region.

Egyptian policeman kills extremist

CAIRO (AP) — A policeman in southern Egypt shot to death a Muslim extremist suspected of involvement in several terrorist attacks in recent months, the top law enforcement officer said Tuesday.

Mohammad Abdul Halim Musa, the interior minister, told reporters the shooting occurred Monday at a village near Dairut, a centre of Muslim extremist activity about 60 kilometres north of the provincial capital Assiut. The dead man, identified as Nasser Himdan, was the 80th fatality this year in violence involving extremists who want to overthrow the secular government and replace it with an Islamic theocracy. The violence included 11 attacks on foreign tourists in which one Briton died and five Germans, two Britons and three Russians were wounded. Mr. Musa said Himdan opened fire on a policeman at Kalanish village but missed. The policeman returned fire, killing him instantly, he added. He said Himdan was wanted in connection with attacks on a police station, a tourist cruise boat on the Nile and a bus carrying Egyptian Christians.

Iran reports 10-tonne drug busts

NICOSIA (AP) — Law enforcement agents have seized some 10 tonnes narcotics in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchistan province over the past year, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday. The agency said 575 drug smugglers, 61 armed bandits and 211 pieces of various weaponry have been captured in the province, which borders Pakistan and Afghanistan. The drugs seized included heroin, morphine and opium, IRNA said. Such large busts are common in Iran, which smugglers use as a transit route for Europe-bound drugs coming from Pakistan and Afghanistan. In an effort to check smuggling and drug abuse, Iran has introduced the mandatory death sentence for anyone caught in the possession of even small quantities of drugs. Hundreds of people have been executed on drug-related charges since 1989.

Jackson told Syria issuing visas to Jews

NEW YORK (R) — Syria's ambassador to Washington has assured U.S. civil rights leader Jesse Jackson there has been no change in Syria's policy of granting travel visas to its tiny Jewish population, a Jewish group said on Monday. The World Jewish Congress (WJC) said Syria's Ambassador Walid Al Houalein wrote Mr. Jackson last week saying there had been no change to the policy after Mr. Jackson visited him at the WJC's request. Several Jewish groups had expressed concern Syria had stopped allowing Jews out of the country since none had been able to leave for about the past 10 weeks. About 2,600 of the country's 4,000 Jews have left since Syria began issuing travel visas earlier this year and about 1,000 are said to be planning to leave.

Italy uncovers Somali passport scheme

ROME (R) — Three men were arrested Monday for selling stolen Somali passports to immigrants who believed the documents would help them obtain Italian citizenship, police said. The ring was headed by Egyptian Mohammed Shaban Al Bendary who police said sold Somali passports for about \$1,000, mainly to other Egyptians. They believed Italy was more likely to grant citizenship to residents of its former colony, Somalia. Police said they seized several blank Somali passports probably stolen from offices in Mogadishu in looting during the civil war. Two Sudanese men were also arrested and charged with helping Bendary.

Iran: Rushdie is 'puppet' in Western hands

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's official news agency said Monday Western nations were backing British author Salman Rushdie to taint Iran's image, and warned that such a policy would lead to grave consequences. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the European Community was using Mr. Rushdie as a

Iraq continuing 'no-fly' zone flig

(Continued from page 1)

air force, decimated in last year's Gulf war, is not capable of engaging allied air power in a significant measure.

The Iraqis are believed to have around 150 operational aircraft, less than one-quarter of the pre-war strength of 700.

Since the "no-fly" was imposed, the allies have flown more than 10,000 missions without challenge, U.S. military officials said.

Diplomats in the Gulf said, however, there have been some overflights by Iraqi jets in recent months, with the intruders quick-

Parliament votes out Pani

(Continued from page 1)

massed on a strategic hill overlooking the city.

Mik Magnusson, spokesman for the U.N. Protection Force (Unprofor) in Sarajevo, said the build-up on Mount Igman, southwest of the city, had been taking place for several months. U.N. spokesmen said Monday they thought the Muslims might be preparing to try to break the Serb siege of the city.

There are approximately 10,000 men there, 6,000 of whom are well-armed and 4,000 in support roles," Mr. Magnusson told a news briefing.

Sarajevo remained without running water or electricity in sub-zero temperatures, but U.N. spokesman Peter Kessler said aid agencies would begin trucking wood for fuel into the city over the next few days. He said he hoped some of its ordinary citizens as bakeries and hospitals.

Bosnian peace talks up for the year in Geneva, turning from the last Yugoslav President Cosic said the threat of intervention in Bosnia very real.

"Prospects for intervention in Herzegovina are real, the prospects for the former Yugoslav republic internationalise," Tar agency quoted him as saying.

The United Nations NATO have been whether to intervene stop the war and enforce a "no-fly" zone and resume talks on the leaders of the three warring sides sitting down together time.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

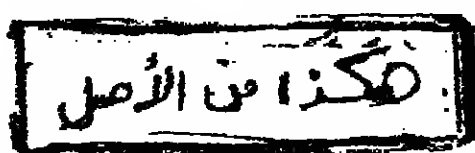
Tel: 77311-19	
PRAYER TIMES	
05:00	Fajr
06:30	Sunrise
11:30	Dhuhr
14:22	Asr
16:45	Maghreb
18:37	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switich, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzian Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 649932	
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675991	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Another rise in temperatures is expected and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min/Max. temp.	
Amman 01/11	
Aqaba 08/19	
Dahab 07/13	
Jordan Valley 07/18	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Aqaba 17 Humidity readings:	

Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Jamil Maraga	76149
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim	835880
Dr. Bahjat Bader	349342
Dr. Hisham Kassar	790286
Firas pharmacy	661912
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairoth pharmacy	626762
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shumaima pharmacy	637660
Nairoth pharmacy	626762
Najib pharmacy	646632
IRBID:	
Dr. Radwan Al Saad	273877
Al Ouda pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Rajah Saqer	901290
Khalil pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	62, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	771212
Highway Police	843022
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	608800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	010230
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381

RJ Flight Information	
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	08-53200
Amman	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	213813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mathias, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shumaima	664111/14
Shumaima Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Munshar Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdali	666121/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164
Al-Mubashir	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	6925
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)986732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)986732
Private Basmal Hospital	(02)73555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)72275
Al-Nafes Hospital	(02)71700

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:00	Jeddah (RJ)
09:45	Aden (RJ)
10:30	Laraca (RJ)
16:35	London (RJ)
16:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
16:55	Istanbul (RJ)
17:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
18:30	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:30	Rome (RJ)
23:45	Damascus (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:45	Dubai (AZ)
06:55	Karachi (PI)
07:25	Cairo (MS)
08:30	Jeddah (SV)
10:30	Suez (TV)
12:00	Damascus (PI)
18:10	Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:30	Vienna, Laraca (OS)
19:20	Bolet (ME)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Madrid (RJ)
10:30	Rome (RJ)
10:45	Beirut, London (RJ)
11:00	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30	Istanbul (RJ)
13:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
19:45	Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:00	Riyadh (RJ)
20:15	New Delhi (RJ)
21:00	Damascus (RJ)
21:30	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:45	Sanaa (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:25	Rome (AZ)



Royal decree honours educationists

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday granting distinguished medals to 10 educationists in recognition of their achievement in the field of education in Jordan.

The decree, the following people received awards: Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Minister of the Lower House of Parliament and former ministry secretary general, and Mahmoud Al Samra, former Minister of Education and Higher Education.

Abdullah Akaileh, former Minister of Education, and Hadi Abu Taleb, former general of the Arab Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organisation, were also awarded.

Al Mahafzah, Yarmouk University president and member of the national team who worked out the curricula for social studies at the basic and secondary school stages.

Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Kazem, former director of the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation of the UNESCO regional office in Amman.

The late Dr. Hamed Al Khawad, former acting director of the UNESCO regional office in Amman.

Also Tuesday a Royal Decree was issued approving the council of minister's appointment of Fawaz Abu Tayeh as ambassador plenipotentiary of Jordan to Bulgaria. A third decree approved as an ambassador at the foreign ministry, as a member of the international judiciary committee until the end of 1996. Mr. Khawneh will also serve as Jordan's representative at the U.N. human rights committee.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday visits construction sites in the north (Petra photo)

Regent calls for faster work on road construction

JERASH, AJLOUN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday visited the Ajloun and Jerash areas north of Amman and urged the authorities in charge of constructing the new Amman-Jerash highway to speed up work on the project.

Work on the highway, which was due to be completed last year, has been delayed due to landslides on parts of the road during the past winter season. Prince Hassan called for the creation of major companies that can carry out large projects including highways.

The Regent met with local merchants, workers and tradesmen in Jerash to enquire about their working conditions. He also met with a delegation representing the official and private sectors to discuss services to the Jerash region and he urged them to work towards promoting local councils in matters related to social services.

In Ajloun, the Regent met with

Parliament members and representatives of the private and public sectors to discuss the implementation of agricultural roads. He urged local societies and private organisations and the local community in general to shoulder responsibility with the public sector and the government in the course of implementing local schemes.

Addressing the audience, the Regent noted that the deputies form the legislative authority in Jordan helping the government and therefore the deputies should tackle their local constituencies' needs and problems. Local notables presented to Prince Hassan a number of requests which included the construction of agricultural roads to enable them to carry their produce to the cities.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Theougan Hindawi, who accompanied the Regent on the trip, said that a number of agricultural issues are being considered by the government.

British grant put to work on irrigation projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A four member British team of experts is working closely with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) to drill artesian wells in the southern regions of Jordan in order to obtain water for irrigation projects, according to a newsletter issued by the British Embassy in Amman.

The experts represent two British firms entrusted with conducting studies on the Qaa Disi aquifer in the south within the framework of a British technical aid programme to Jordan. Britain last March, signed a loan agreement of 10 million sterling into a grant of which 3.46 million has already been spent.

The newspaper said that more than 2.3 million sterling from this grant will be allocated to provide drilling and other equipment to the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) in connection with the three-year study project of the Qaa Disi aquifer.

Upon signing the transfer of the

loan into a grant, the two sides agreed that the grant should mainly benefit the priority sectors of water and education in the Kingdom.

According to the newsletter, the four British experts and the NRA team are currently drilling 1300-metre-deep wells in the process of studying the aquifers.

The NRA has employed its drilling equipment, normally used in the exploration of oil and gas, in the water search operation in the south, the letter noted.

Apart from the Jordanian, owned equipment, the British firms have brought in their own equipment, special pipes and other materials used in testing. The newsletter quoted experts as saying that the search for water resources between Maan, Mudawara and Disi would take one and a half years during which a total of 15,300 wells will have to be drilled. Britain originally agreed to give the loan to Jordan in 1987.



Work in progress: Maintenance of water pipes is essential to Jordan water network

West Bank lawyer denounces deportation

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Chairman of the Arab Lawyers Committee in the occupied West Bank, Ali Ghuzlan Tuesday said Israel was planning to evict the 415 Palestinians, now exiled in South Lebanon, secretly without any public announcement was it not for the local and international media people.

In an interview with the daily Al Ra'i, Mr. Ghuzlan who is in Amman said that he learnt about the deportation through an Arab journalist who informed him of extraordinary movement of buses to transport the Palestinians north. The journalist told him that Israel was planning to deport 380 Palestinians. He added that he made a contact with Palestinian lawyers and human rights group to bloc the eviction process as well as ensuring the passing of a court order to prevent the eviction of those Palestinians. Despite all the efforts, the eviction of the Palestinians took place.

Mr. Ghuzlan described the eviction as an extremist and unprecedented step on the part of the Israeli government. It was preceded by the detention of some 2,100 Palestinians without any justification. He said that the massive eviction of the Palestinian people is a crime of war and punishable under international law.

Mr. Ghuzlan stressed that the lawyers committee in the occupied West Bank had issued a statement on 18 Dec. 1990 warning against the deportation policy, and saying that if accepted it could be a precedent for massive transfers.

Development and Employment Fund aims to double number of projects supported in 1993

By Salam Al Shawa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Operating with JD 13 million funds in the coming year 1993, the Development and Employment Fund (DEF) plans to increase the number of projects it supports to 2,500 up from 940 in 1992.

Up to 6,000 citizens will find jobs after the implementation of these small-size income-generating projects in the coming year, said DEF Director General Abdul Ilah Abu Ayash.

Between March and December 1992 the DEF financed 790 schemes by private individuals at the total cost of JD 4 million creating 1,927 jobs, said Dr. Abu Ayash in reference to the 1992 operations.

The rest of the projects carried out with DEF financing during 1992 were initiated or carried out by societies or local community groups at a total cost of JD 710,000 creating 289 jobs, he

said.

Dr. Abu Ayash said that priority in the soft loans which carry 6.5 per cent interest go to college graduates whose numbers are increasing due to the unemployment problem in the country.

Unemployment is now running at 17 per cent of the total number of the Jordanian workforce according to the Ministry of Labour and the DEF projects are aimed at reducing this rate as much as possible, said Dr. Abu Ayash.

Last month, the government raised the DEF fund's by JD 6 million to JD 13 million in order to widen the margin of beneficiaries among needy families and help deal with poverty in the Kingdom. Nearly 67 per cent of the loans in 1992 went to college graduates who started their own businesses, noted Dr. Abu Ayash. He said the DEF and the vocational training corporation are closely cooperating in order to find jobs for the unemployed

whose number as registered with the civil service commission now stands at 80,000.

"Our job is not simply to grant loans to beneficiaries who should submit acceptable collateral to pay their dues in time, but it also entails following up on the progress of the projects to determine the extent of their success or failure," he said.

Our operations are under strict control and we discovered a small number of fraud cases accounting to seven per cent of the total number of loans already granted," he added.

Special attention is given to the southern and badia regions and the DEF aims at striking a balance between industrial handicraft and agricultural projects being implemented with its funds, he said. Nearly 50 per cent of the loans so far given, have gone towards agricultural projects creating 662 jobs.

Dr. Abu Ayash said he was relatively satisfied with the DEF



Abdul Ilah Abu Ayash operations as more than 80 per cent of the debtors were paying back their dues regularly and more people are benefiting from the DEF services. He said in 1993 DEF plans to pursue efforts towards financing projects that employ the largest number of workers and reduce the number of unemployed people in Jordan.

Bataineh praises work of Noor Al Hussein Foundation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh Tuesday praised the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) Quality of Life Project (QOLP) saying it contributes to meeting development needs of rural population, and the least privileged people.

He stressed the importance of this project, saying it enhances the concept of integrated development, and encourages self-reliance.

Addressing the closing session of a three day workshop for technical support committee members working for the foundation's QOLP in the northern and middle parts of the Kingdom, Dr. Bataineh said the project contributes to improving quality of life by encouraging and assisting citizens to set up income generating projects and improving social, economic and cultural services.

NHF Director General Inaam Al Mufti spoke about a new health programme, adopted by the foundation, with the aim of improving health conditions of individuals in local communities.

Participants in the workshop discussed several working papers on rural development and community based projects and the role of the Development and Employment Fund, which was presented by the Fund's Director General Abdul Ilah Abu Ayash. They also discussed a working paper on small projects and the role of the National Aid Fund (NAF), presented by Faruq



Self-sufficiency skills play an important role in the quality of life project

Badran, director general of the fund. Taking part in the workshop which opened on Sunday, Dec. 27 were 44 trainees on social services.

In her opening speech, Mrs. Mufti pointed out the development philosophy of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, which draws on a comprehensive and integrated approach to socio-economic change. This approach, the NHF President said, would serve to meet the needs of individual

families and to contribute to the overall development of the community. She added that this approach also seeks to reinforce the concept of self-reliance among rural people through their grass-roots participation in the planning, implementation, supervision and evaluation of the development projects in their communities.

Director of the QOLP Issam Zawawi also remarked that the project seeks to enhance the stan-

dards of living in rural communities in Jordan through helping local inhabitants initiate and manage income-generating schemes that would eventually help improve the socio-economic conditions of their families and their communities at large. He added that those schemes are being implemented with advisory support and supervision from the Project's Technical Committees operating in the nine villages served by the Project.

Jordanians learn Hebrew for the future

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuter

AMMAN — A growing number of Jordanians are studying Hebrew, partly preparing for a day when they make peace with Israel and partly because "knowing all about your enemy is half of a victory over him."

Jordan is technically still at a state of war with Israel, and the study of Hebrew was traditionally limited to some security officers, archaeologists and linguistics students. Now it is creeping into the ranks of middle-class Jordanians.

"The peace process has definitely people made more concerned with learning Hebrew because they are hoping peace will come soon," said Ghazi Al Saadi who opened Jordan's only private Hebrew school in May. Those who are our enemies now might become our friends with whom we will have to co-exist," said Mr. Saadi, a former Israeli Arab who was stripped of his passport and deported to Jordan in 1977 after spending nine years in jail for PLO-related activities.

Saadi's institute has 75 students: businessmen, lawyers, doctors and Palestinian researchers like Abdul-Jawad Saleh, the deported mayor of the West Bank town of Bireh, taking lessons three times a week.

The state-run University of Jordan in Amman also said there had been a surge of students enrolling for Hebrew courses it has been offering for years as part of an introduction to ancient languages. It gave no figures.

"As Arabs, we have always needed to know Hebrew," said Bader Khamis, the full-time Hebrew teacher at Saadi's Dar Al Jaleel (house of Gallies) institute which also publishes books and does research on Israel and the occupied territories.

"But the wars between us never gave us a chance to think of that," said Mr. Khamis, 45. He mastered Hebrew in Israel's huge Ashkelon prison, where he spent nine years for anti-Israeli activities before being deported to Jordan in 1985. "Knowing all about your enemy is half of a victory over him," he said. "But how can you get to know your enemy if you do not speak his

language to understand his religion, history and thinking?"

Hebrew and Arabic are Semitic languages and their grammar rules are very close. Teachers say unlike foreigners, Arabic speakers can learn Hebrew in less than a year. Many Israelis, born in Arab countries, need no lessons in the language of their neighbours. Others can choose to study it as a second foreign language to English in high school. Hebrew slang is chock full of Arabic expressions — and Arabic swear words. Hebrew, the language of the bible never is virtually devoid of juicy expletives.

Many moderate Jordanians who back the historic Arab-Israeli peace talks launched in Madrid 14 months ago believe in the need to learn Hebrew to prepare for future economic and political links with Israel with the context of an overall settlement.

"I am a businessman selling pharmaceuticals and when there is peace, I will want to go to the West Bank and other parts of Palestine for business and visit my family," said Samer Saleh. However, teachers say most of their students are attending Hebrew classes because they travel frequently to visit families in the occupied lands, where at least half of Jordan's population has roots.

Others have a professional interest in monitoring socio-economic and political changes in the Jewish state through Israeli literature, radio and television.

Mohammad Kharrub, a columnist for Arabic daily Al Ra'i, said he took up Hebrew to gain direct access to news on Israel instead of relying on the heavily-censored Arab media or the foreign press covering events with a Western eye. "Even if I am learning Hebrew, I am against any form of cultural normalisation with the Jewish state even if we are forced to do so by our regimes," added Mr. Kharrub, 42. His views reflect popular thinking among many leftists and Islamists who say an academic study of Hebrew does not clash with their belief that Israel had no right to exist as a state.

Many students said they are now frustrated that they cannot take more advanced Hebrew courses because classes offered in

Jordan have not gone beyond the starting level.

Despite headline stands, the peace process has breathed an air of openness into Jordan's musty political atmosphere. Television pictures of Arab and Israeli negotiators shaking hands and talking for the first time in the four-decade-old conflict have helped, though superficially, to begin easing deep-seated animosity.

Although Jordanian newspaper

ers are now running advertisements announcing dates of new Hebrew classes, journalists are still censored for speaking to the Israeli media.

Jordan has also been broadcasting news in Hebrew to Israel since 1973, the only Arab state to do so. "We want to get the Arab stand on issues like the peace talks to get across to anyone who speaks Hebrew," one official said.

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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Telephone lines and overtime rates approved by cabinet

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Tuesday approved the increase telephone lines in Maan by 1,000 new lines, thus bringing to 30 lines the number of telephone lines serving the city. At a session chaired by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid, the cabinet also approved Jordan's participation in the meetings of the Council of Ministers of Youth and Sports, which will be held in Amman. The cabinet also endorsed a recommendation by the Service Commission, based on the request of the Information Ministry, to give a 30 per cent allowance to Jordan Radio and TV station staff who work overtime. The cabinet also authorised a 30 per cent allowance to workers in Siwaga dam, in Maan, to the 30 per cent overtime allowance they are already getting. The cabinet decision said such allowance will cease as soon as work on the dam is completed. The cabinet also approved payment of staff working in the area of water drilling exploration.

Embassy expected to give speech on Palestinian Revolution Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Embassy of Palestine in Amman will hold a reception Thursday to mark the Palestinian Revolution Day. The celebration will be held under the patronage of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker who is expected to give a speech on the occasion, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al Anwar. Also addressing the celebration will be head of the Palestinian Department at the Palestine Liberation Organisation Farouq Qaddoumi, who will arrive in Amman Wednesday. Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Abu Tayeh, Chairman of the Lower House's Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim are also expected to address the occasion.

Food coupon system to be implemented

AMMAN — The Ministry of Supply will implement new measures to organise the distribution of subsidised food coupons from the beginning of 1993, according to a report in Al Dustour. The new measures, aimed at facilitating the process of obtaining these coupons, include the allocation of even days for families with even numbers of members and odd days for families with odd numbers. For example, a family of five people will receive its coupons on Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday, while a family with ten people will receive its coupons on Saturday, Sunday or Wednesday. To ensure that coupons are directly used by the families concerned, the ministry stipulated that only one coupon of the family members will only be valid to receive coupons on the allocated day. The ministry also decided to extend working hours in distribution centres until four o'clock of two to cope with the new system.

Catholic Patriarch condemns deportation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Roman Catholic Patriarch in the Middle East and North Africa Michael Al Sabbah said Israel's deportation of 415 Palestinians from their homeland was unjust and unacceptable. Patriarch Sabbah said evicting any person from his land can never be accepted by any country. In a statement to Arab Al Fajr newspaper which is published in Jerusalem, he said such measures cannot in any way be justified. Israel should end its deportation decision as a good will gesture to its efforts in the Middle East peace process, he said.

Lebanese university president gives lecture on water in Mid East

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Lebanese University Mohammad Majdoub Tuesday underlined the importance of water resources in the Middle East region, especially in terms of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In a lecture delivered at Yarmouk University, Majdoub said Israel had realised the importance of water resources, and this was why it occupied Arab lands to use water resources.

Information minister receives Finnish official

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif met at the ministry Tuesday vice-president of the Arab-Finnish Friendship Society Antero Lohikoski. The meeting discussed the society's efforts in enhancing Arab-Finnish relations.

ST holds science conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Chemistry students at the Jordan University of Science and Technology's (JUST) biology department Tuesday held a scientific day which included an exhibition of their research. Prof. Sanaa Janakat who supervised the students' research, said the aim of the event was to train students in scientific conferences.

Meeting postponed until new year

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat Tuesday postponed the House's meeting scheduled for Wednesday until next Sunday 3 January. The House will discuss the financial committee's report on the budget for 1993.

Iranian mosaics to be displayed in London

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of Iranian mosaics will be held Tuesday at the auction hall of Sotheby's in London. The week-long exhibition includes 36 paintings and there will be lectures on "Iranian Mosaics," "Roman and Byzantine Mosaics in Jordan" and "Islamic mosaics." A special booklet on the mosaics in Jordan will be distributed to visitors of the exhibition.

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Economic Forum

Jordan's trade performance

By Dr. Abdalla

By all standards, the performance of Jordan's foreign trade sector during 1992 was, unfortunately, dismaying. Ignoring this performance or understating its serious implications serves no purpose now or later.

Imports of goods grew at 20 per cent against 5.8 per cent projected under the economic adjustment programme. Exports of goods were envisaged to expand at not less than 18 per cent; practically they rose by 15 per cent.

The outcome has been a trade deficit of \$1,703 million. We do not know much about the contents of the adjustment programme, in way of officially released data that allows an independent assessment of target fulfillment and an evaluation of the programme itself when it moves from blue print to real life. However, the intentionally leaked out data indicates that the trade deficit should not exceed 27.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). But it is not known which GDP is intended: at factor cost or at producers' prices.

At factor cost, GDP reached JD1,839 million, or around \$2,685 million. On this count, the 1992 trade deficit reached a shocking level of 63 per cent of GDP.

At producers' prices, GDP totalled around JD2,161 million, or \$3,155 million. On this count, the trade deficit still climbed to a

high plateau of 54 per cent.

In the economic theory, demand for imports is made a function of income; as income goes up, so do imports.

Jordan's gross domestic product is purported to have grown at the celebrated rate of 16 per cent so that it is only natural to see imports jumping at a corresponding clip. However, in the particular case of Jordan, at least two contributory factors have to be considered.

First, the demand for imports is also a function of the liberality of foreign trade. Under the adjustment programme, Jordan's foreign trade system was noticeably liberalised over the last two years and the impact of that has shown up. This liberalism and the related impact are here to stay.

Second, the return of Jordanians from the Gulf countries has added to the resident population of Jordan. Bigger population means higher demand for imports, a case which we believe has materialised during 1992.

Obviously, the explosion of imports poses an obstacle to all schemes of economic reform and not only to the current adjustment programme. This obstacle can take on the dimensions of a dilemma when Jordan, and for that matter any other country,

can not resort to quantitative and other direct measures imports. All IMF-sponsored economic adjustment programmes such measures.

Exports offer another way-out but demand for exports is a function of foreign policy circumstances which an exporting country can hardly control in the short run. Import substitution is option but it must be ruled out because it can not succeed in the absence of formidable protection which is, again, with IMF programmes.

The chronic trade deficit has been at the heart of the economic crisis of the Jordanian economy. One strategic remedy to this situation has been to emphasise the service sector as a development priority. No Jordanian official document has, alas, ever envisioned this path as a serious alternative, very understandably, because of the chronic trade deficit.

Jordan should look, with great concern, to the trade balance during 1993. If the 1992 trade performance continues, a trend will be established on these lines, which will require a reformulation of present economic policies.

Crawl before walk

IN ITS report on the draft budget for 1993, the Finance Committee of the Lower House of Parliament has recommended that the government substantially raise the salaries of public sector employees. The committee's call is justified and the reasoning behind it needs no further explanation. The purchasing power of government employees has drastically eroded over the last few years and a raise in their meagre salaries is a necessity without which they will not be able to cope with the increasing high cost of living.

By any economic standards, the quality of life for the majority of Jordanians has been on the decline; the dinar lost 50 per cent of its value during the economic crisis of 1988-1989; price hikes have haunted every citizen of limited income; and the lines of unemployment and the number of people living below the poverty level have grown to nightmarish levels. In the meantime, and except for a minor increase in the 1992 budget, the salaries of the public sector employees have remained unchanged and the once prosperous Jordanian middle class has been shrinking, unable to keep up with a market that edged many of its members into the alleys of poverty, economic hardships and, in many cases, despair. Over the last two years, the government has reported a recovering economy, a growing gross national product and healthier export figures and foreign currency reserves. But these figures mean nothing to the soldier, or policeman or civil servant who are unable to pay their rents and feed their children.

The economy may have improved well enough for the better off amongst us, but those whose lives depend on their monthly paychecks, the improving economy has not helped them one bit.

This is where there is an urgent need for government intervention, which could help people with small limited income. The government has expressed willingness to consider seriously the recommendation of the house's committee. Willingness and good intentions are far from enough, however. The increase in public sector salaries must therefore be granted and the hundreds of thousands of Jordanians who desperately need it must be helped to attain their basic needs. There will come a time soon afterwards when the productivity issue and the work of the bureaucracy as a whole should come up for discussion and debate. For now, it is a question of whether our public servants can crawl before they walk and eat before they talk.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Tuesday attacked the United States and its Western allies for continuing their acts of aggression on Iraq, and for the downing of Iraqi planes flying over Iraqi territory. The paper quoted leaders of the United States, France and Britain as stressing the need to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions by all available means and forcing the hand of the United Nations in all matters. It said that while the Americans shoot down Iraqi planes flying over Iraqi territory, they watch Serbian planes raiding civilian positions in Bosnia, in defiance of U.N. resolutions, without doing anything to help the oppressed Bosnian population. The paper said that the United Nations passively watched Israel expelling innocent civilians and continuing its occupation of Arab land and aggression on its people. This double standard and double faced dealing on the part of the Western countries and the United Nations is disgusting and appalling, said the paper. The time has come for the United Nations to lift its sanctions on the Iraqi people as the Iraqi government continues to show the world that it is abiding by the requirements of the international legitimacy, said the paper. It said, on the other hand, that Israel and the Serbs, who continue their disregard of world community resolutions, should be subjected to sanctions and their actions should be condemned. The paper quoted French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas as saying that it is unacceptable to see men exposed to cold and hunger and evicted from their homes. It said that all people around the world, Christians or Muslims, follow up this human tragedy which ought to be stopped by all means.

NOTHING THAT the United Nations has so far failed to take any positive action to address the situation created by Israel's deportation of 400 Palestinians from their homes. Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily said that it is hoped that the Arab States, through their parliamentarians, will make a strong move towards dealing with this tragic situation. As it was expected, the U.N. envoy sent to discuss the deportees question with Israel has failed to persuade the Israeli government to implement U.N. Security Council Resolutions 799 and repatriate the Palestinians, said the paper. It said that the U.N. failure followed another failure on the part of the Arab foreign ministers who met recently in Cairo to discuss the situation; but it is hoped that the Arab parliamentarians will be successful where others have failed. The representatives of the Arab peoples, who are gathering in Amman Tuesday for an extraordinary meeting, are expected to speak out on behalf of the Arab masses at a time when their kinsmen are exposed to hunger and cold while the Rabin government is showing total disregard to the U.N. Security Council resolutions and the world community's will, added the daily.

Arab Americans in the Clinton transition

By Dr. James Zogby

For the first time Arab Americans find themselves active participants in the Clinton transition process. This past week Arab-American leaders have had nine separate meetings with the Clinton transition leaders to discuss hiring members from their community in the new administration.

All this has come about because Arab Americans played an active role in the 1992 presidential campaign. A steady stream of major political interest groups and constituent organisations have paraded in and out of the Clinton presidential transition offices in downtown Washington in the past three weeks. They go with position papers, hoping to influence future policy, or with stacks of resumes, hoping to secure important positions for their members and supporters.

This is how the transition process works. On one level its functions are threefold: to prepare for the incoming administration the detailed technical information it will need to fulfill the manifold responsibilities of government; to select the personnel who will staff this new Democratic administration; and to outline the policy options which the new administration can pursue in each of the many areas where government action will be called for over the first few months in office.

On a second level is an organised effort to provide access to Democrats representing each constituent and advocacy group in the country — to give them the opportunity to present their concerns and seek senior appointments to the new government. More than 100,000 resumes from Democrats across the country have been collected and fed into a computer database by the transition team, and thousands of Democrats representing the whole spectrum of the party have visited the transition offices.

From my personal vantage point, what is unique and important about this transition is that, for the first time, Arab Americans are a part of the process, having been recognised with respect by the Clinton presidential transition team. In just this past week Arab-American leaders have had nine separate meetings with transition leaders to discuss hiring Arab Americans for posts in the new administration, foreign and domestic policy, and to institutionalise the Arab-American relationship with the Democratic Party and the Clinton White House.

Of course, all of this has come about because Arab Americans played an active role in the Clinton-Gore campaign. It is a tradition in U.S. politics that "to the victor belong the spoils," meaning that the winning campaign gets to appoint its supporters to government jobs to help the new administration implement its policy goals. As a result of their participation in the campaign of the winning team, Arab Americans are receiving an opportunity to share in the success.

Becoming a part of the Clinton-Gore campaign was not easy. From the outset there have been genuine obstacles placed in the way of Arab Americans who wanted to play a role in Democratic campaigns. In 1972, for example, a group of Arab Americans sought to endorse the Democratic campaign of Sen. George McGovern, but a campaign staffer rejected and returned the endorsement. In 1980 President Jimmy Carter, while running for reelection, formed an Arab-American committee to support his campaign but it lasted only three days before he disbanded it in the face of pressure from pro-Israel forces in the campaign. And in 1984 and 1988 only Jesse Jackson's campaign gave Arab Americans a chance to participate in an organised way in his campaign.

This year started off with a similar difficulty. Early overtures to the Bill Clinton campaign went unanswered. While individual Arab Americans played important roles in several states, Arab Americans, as an organised group, were denied full access. Later, after the primary process was completed, we were still trying, but without success, to arrange a meeting with the Clinton campaign officials.

The story of how we gained access appeared in the Dec. 13 Washington Post (and 380 other U.S. papers) in a syndicated column by the highly influential political columnist David Broder. Mr. Broder's story began: "One of the more intriguing footnotes to the election came my way last week... The story came from Dr. James J. Zogby, the president of the Arab American Institute, that community's political arm in Washington. Zogby, who is a Democrat, had been having what he calls 'a very frustrating' time all year establishing contact with Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. Many

from that point on, we got a level of recognition for our group that we'd never gotten from the Democrats before. Clinton wrote a letter to Arab Americans and authorised its translation into Arabic, and we ended up doing very well for him in Michigan and other states."

Zogby made the obvious point: "Only in America," he said, "would an Arab American spokesman call a Jewish American Senator to call a Greek Orthodox campaign operative to let us help a Southern Baptist get elected president."

Mr. Broder's story has been read by dozens of Democratic leaders. Mr. Clinton transition officials and major Jewish leaders, all of whom have called in the past week to express their support for Arab Americans, and to declare that such exclusion as Arab Americans have suffered should become a thing of the past. And though the story that Mr. Broder recounted represented a victory for our community, it necessitated a flurry of activity on our part to sustain and strengthen that victory.

Therefore, what is important to note is not only that Arab Americans gained access to the campaign, but also that, once recognised, we performed remarkably well on behalf of the campaign. Within days after the meeting in Little Rock, an

"Arab-American Democrats are feeling fairly confident about their new acceptance by their party and the transition effort. While they are still concerned about the direction of U.S. policy — and their ability to be included in its discussion — towards the Arab World, they feel that their new and deeper involvement in the political process will provide them with direct channels through which to help shape the policy debate."

overtures were made and rebuffed in what Zogby took to be an excess of concern about Clinton's political advisers about a possible backlash from pro-Israel Jewish groups.

Finally, (after trying to gain access through a dozen or so political leaders, members of Congress and others), Zogby tried what seemed the most unlikely intermediary. He called Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (D-Conn.), an orthodox Jew who never campaigns on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. Zogby knew Lieberman was esteemed in Little Rock for endorsing Clinton last January when few other Washington insiders were giving the Arkansas governor much of a chance.

"The Senator and I had debated Middle East policy on a CNN 'Crossfire' show," Zogby told me, "and I think we were both surprised at the wide area of agreement."

"CNN thought the show was a bomb, because we didn't bicker at each other."

"So in September, seeing no other way, Zogby called Lieberman's office and pleaded his case to be allowed access to the Clinton campaign. The next day, Zogby said, 'The Senator called and said, 'Call George Stephanopoulos (Clinton's communications director). He's waiting for your call.'"

and did, and was invited to Little Rock and then to

Arab-American endorsement of Bill Clinton was issued by Arab-American Democrats. The list of endorsers consisted of prominent Arab Americans from 25 states, including two members of Congress, nine mayors, 15 other elected officials and 40 Arab-American Democratic Party leaders.

Governor Clinton responded to our endorsement with a letter of acceptance which read:

"I want to thank you as an Arab American for your support. Al Gore and I are proud to represent the Democratic Party, which has always been a party of inclusion. We look forward to working in the spirit of unity with all Americans in a Clinton administration that will promote economic opportunity and social justice. We will continue to work for and defend the civil and political rights of all Americans, just as we will work tirelessly to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and throughout the world. We look forward to celebrating a Democratic victory with you in November."

During the campaign, Arab Americans raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, volunteered to work, and made significant efforts to get out the Democratic vote on Nov. 3 in three key Midwestern states (Illinois, Ohio and Michigan).

Gore campaign. The Clinton team most appreciated and recognised the Arab-American effort in Michigan, a state they felt they needed to win but in which they expected difficulty, because Arab Americans are so numerous there as to make up a sizable voting bloc.

And so in some sense, because Arab Americans — as Democrats — played their part, and because Bill Clinton is committed to policies of diversity and inclusion, Arab Americans have been provided the same recognition and access that has been given to other ethnic and constituent groups during the transition period.

Our community has noted with pride that one of the first cabinet appointments made by Mr. Clinton was Donna Shalala, as secretary of Health and Human Services. Ms. Shalala is an Arab American from Cleveland (in fact, her father was the long-time president of Cleveland's Syrian-Lebanese Club), and she is currently chancellor of the University of Wisconsin. She will be the highest ranking Arab American in government.

Arab American Democrats have formed a task force to help secure Arab American appointments in the next round of nominations, at assistant and undersecretary level. This task force is collecting resumes from qualified Arab Americans and working with the Clinton transition team to make certain that these qualified candidates are considered for appropriate positions. This was the purpose of a meeting between the Arab American leadership and Transition Chairman Vernon Jordan and the Transition's Deputy Director Alexis Herman. At the meeting we presented the resumes of our most qualified and distinguished candidates.

There have also been lengthy meetings between Arab Americans and members of the Clinton foreign policy transition staff and the domestic policy staff. In four separate meetings with members of the foreign policy staff we discussed a wide range of issues, including:

- The peace process and the recent Israeli expulsion of several hundred Palestinians;
- Lebanon and its process of national reconciliation, as well as its need for assistance in that endeavour;
- the continuing plight of Muslims and others in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia;
- and need for the incoming Clinton administration to understand the role of Islam in the contemporary Middle East, and the complexity of the Islamic experience.

Arab-American Democrats are feeling fairly confident about their new acceptance by their party and the transition effort. While they are still concerned about the direction of U.S. policy — and their ability to be included in its discussion — towards the Arab World, they feel that their new and deeper involvement in the political process will provide them with direct channels through which to help shape the policy debate.

This, for Arab Americans, is the new lesson learned during the past ten years: Politics is hard work, and you can only partake of its rewards if you participate.

The above article first appeared in the Dec. 21, 1992, edition of Arab News. The article is reprinted with the author's permission. Dr. Zogby is president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute.

LETTERS

Time to awaken

To the Editor:

The latest deportation of more than four hundred Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a further glaring example of the cruel Israeli occupation. The United Nations, steering predominant member, the U.S., would lose its credibility to implement Security Council Resolution 799 of December 1992, which condemns Israel for this unlawful and inhuman act and calls upon it to return the deportees immediately to their homes in the occupied territories.

Israel's action violates the 4th Geneva Convention concerning the protection of civilians under occupation in international conventions on human rights. But Israel, as it refuses to abide by United Nations resolutions, puts the blame on Lebanon, with its impudence and arrogance, puts the blame on Lebanon and for the dire conditions in which they are living. A absurd pretension!

If we adopt this crooked and dishonest logic, then Israel any time deport Palestinians and drop them in any corner and then put the blame on that country. Israel has gone too far and it seems it is making a laughing-stock of United Nations and its members.

It is therefore incumbent upon the Security Council to sanctions upon Israel under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter if it continues to flout Resolution 799, as the S. Council has done in the past with regard to other states, South Africa and Iraq. It is high time for the international community, particularly the western world, to put an end to Israel's arrogance, intransigence and its making a mockery of United Nations resolutions. Israel has been coddled western world for far too much and much too long.

But blame must also be directed to the Arab and Muslim for their inaction. Positive and quick action is required, and not simply words and nothing but words. What subject matter regards the Palestine problem, Bosnia or Serbia. There does not seem to be any effective Arab or Muslim awakening; the Arab and Muslim states seem to be in slumber while the western world has reached the most advanced a galaxy of stars.

I do not blame some Arab writers who are calling for dissolution of the Arab League and the Organisation Islamic Conference for their not doing something concrete effective in order to succour the oppressed Arab or Muslim peoples. This is indeed a depressing and frustrating situation. It is relevant and appropriate to recall the ode of the Lebanese writer and poet Ibrahim Al Yaziji (1874-1906) in which he castigates the Arab World: "Arise, ye Arabs and awake! should be the slogan of all Arabs, but it should be put into so as the civilised world respects and heeds us."

Pascal B. K. Amman

Illegal deportation

To the Editor:

The 20 million Bangladeshis who have been living in India cannot be sent back to Bangladesh against their will. They have become Indian citizens by naturalisation. They have Indian cards, they have been working or doing business or have even obtained voting rights. It is illegal to send them to Bangladesh. There are also about 15 million Pakistanis, most of whom cannot even be detected as the married Indian Muslims, whom they resemble, and have assimilated. Partition of the Indian subcontinent has succeeded in destroying the strong family bonds existing between many Muslims of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

Why should there be discrimination against Muslim immigrants in India when Hindu immigrants can be accepted in Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, East Africa, Fiji, Mauritius and elsewhere? Why should Hindus only be allowed to increase their numbers and percentage in population?

It should be remembered that even the Aryans are original inhabitants of India as they are the descendants of invading hordes from Central Asia. Can the descendants of the Aryans be deported and the country handed over to the original tribal natives, Dravidians, Nagas, the descendants of the Indus Valley Civilisation, etc.? The witch-hunt against Bangladeshis and Pakistani immigrants and other Muslim immigrants in India can only survive as a secular country. If the Hindu parties will never succeed in getting the immigrants deported as they have already become Indian by the internationally recognised Law of Naturalisation, Muslims of India and the world will not agree with and allow an illegal and inhuman action. All the Muslims of the world, even the non-Muslims would be antagonised and shall stand in action by all possible means.

When millions of Hindus can live and work in Muslim countries in the Gulf region, why cannot Muslim immigrants live in India? If 20 million Bangladeshis and 15 million Pakistanis deported, which of course is an absolutely impossible task, Hindus from the rich Gulf countries would also be sent to India. Let not the Hindu parties talk any more nonsense about deporting the Bangladeshis and other Muslim immigrants who are legally Indian citizens now.

Iqbal Mohammad Khan
485 Ganj Peth,
India.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld on request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of manuscripts.

Features

APU seeks Security Council deadline

(Continued from page 1)

Earlier, His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, the Regent, told the APU meeting that the 415 Palestinians, who were expelled from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and sent to the East Peace process.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for the return of the Palestinians to their homes, was not mentioned.

The daylong meeting was attended by Tunisia, Algeria, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Mauritania, Djibouti and others did not attend.

In a 45-minute address, Prince Hassan said the expulsions were a flagrant violation of international law, and Israel's repeated refusal to abide by these resolutions.

"It is time to execute articles in the Geneva convention, which states that those who violate international agreements should be punished," Prince Hassan said.

"It is also time to think about a mechanism that would ensure the return of civilians in the occupied territories and to guarantee a halt to these practices," he said.

He said the expulsion of the Palestinians has suspended participation in the 14-year-old U.S.-sponsored Arab League peace talks as a result of the action, but left the door open for resuming the negotiations.

Addressing the opening session, Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, said the expulsion of the Jewish state's disregard of humanitarian values and U.N. resolutions.

"Our meeting today should rise the level of challenges posed Israel and to the aspirations of Arab masses because you represent the masses of the Arab world," Dr. Arabiyat said.

The Palestine Liberation Organization and foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and Lebanon have urged the United Nations to set a deadline for Israel to take the steps back.

His statement at the end of a long discussion in Cairo on Jan. 24, stopped short of announcing the withdrawal of the delegations from the talks.

Delegates attending the APU meeting expressed fears that Israel may be launching a new wave of expelling Palestinians to the room for Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

The most dangerous aspect is that it could be the start of a new expulsion operation that would take the form of collective punishment to empty the occupied Arab Palestinian territories," said Abdul Kader Kaddourah, speaker of the Syrian parliament.

Mr. Kaddourah is also current chairman of the 15-member APU which called the one-day meeting in Amman to show Arab solidarity with the evictees.

"We call on all Arab and Islamic governments to back us up and stand with us to force the Israeli enemy to reverse its tyrannical resolution," the statement said.

"The Israeli step has put the Arab World in the balance and defied all regimes and peoples," it added.

"We treasure all steps which would contribute to our return to our homeland and would make the Israeli government directly responsible for all that befalls us," it added.

Mr. Khaddourah said the evictees' plight would test the international community's commitment to implementing Resolution 799.

"The United Nations Security Council has in previous times taken immediate measures that guaranteed the implementation of its resolutions," Mr. Khaddourah said.

The Arabs want the United Nations Security Council not to apply different standards when dealing with world issues and should see to it that human rights are respected everywhere, said Tawfiq Al Said from the Tunisian parliament.

The APU meeting in Amman, he said, was one way to attract the world public attention to the plight of the Palestinian evictees.

Sinhasri Hafiz, member of the Algerian People's Consultative Council, said the APU should take steps towards bolstering inter-Arab relations before practical steps could be taken with regard to issues of concern to the whole nation.

Deputy Speaker of Iraq's Parliament Ghanem Aziz Jadouri called on the APU meeting to expose Israel's arbitrary practices and its defiance of U.N. resolutions.

He called on Arab parliamentarians to adopt a joint stand vis-a-vis Israel's actions and to act in concert to persuade international organizations to pressure Israel into complying with the world community's will.

Another call on the Arabs to unite came from the General Islamic Conference for Jerusalem in a cable sent to the APU meeting.

"The General Islamic Conference for Jerusalem appeals to the APU to play a leading role and take practical steps to reactivate solidarity among Arab countries to counter Israel's measures," the cable said.

It urged the APU to form a team that would convey this message to the leaders of the Arab Nation, who are called upon to undertake personal initiatives for the sake of reviving Arab solidarity.

The message urged the APU to "convey the seriousness of the situation in the occupied Arab lands resulting from Israel's practices to the Arab masses and to urge Arabs and Muslims to rally to save the holy places from Zionist conspiracies."

Sustainable agriculture strives to protect environment while increasing food production

By Ben Wedeman

FOR THOUSANDS of years the farmers in West Asia filled the soil, producing not only enough food for the region, but also a surplus for export. Yet today West Asia no longer produces enough food to feed itself. It imports more food per capita than any other region in the world. Responding to the burgeoning demand for food, farmers in the region are trying to wrest from the earth a level of food production it simply cannot sustain.

Soil erosion and nutrient exhaustion are becoming ever more common. Scarce water resources are being rapidly depleted. Overgrazing is creating deserts. The possibility of an environmental catastrophe is looming large on the horizon.

Population growth has already considerably outpaced agricultural production in most countries of the region. The gap between supply and demand is bound to widen even more in the years to come. The land area cannot be increased for increased food production. On the contrary, agricultural land is being encroached

upon for urban purposes to meet the requirements of the increasing population.

The experience of the last three decades has shown that increased crop productivity is only part of the solution to feeding the world. A comprehensive approach to agriculture, an awareness of both the long and short-term effects of any given crop or farming practice, is critical for sustained agricultural production. Despite this, only in recent years has agricultural sustainability become an issue.

Though agricultural mechanization and chemical fertilizers

and pesticides have enabled farmers to realize amazing yield increases, these innovations have also led to a fundamental loss between equilibrium. "Miracle" technologies of the past two or three decades made it easy for farmers, and agricultural researchers, to forget the importance of maintaining the fine balance between man's needs and the laws of nature. With growing public concern over global warming, environmental pollution and toxic wastes, the concept of sustainability has finally begun to receive the attention it rightly deserves.

But what is this concept of sustainability? According to the definition put forward by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research, an international group of eminent agricultural scientists and representatives of donor agencies, sustainability is "the successful management of resources for agriculture to satisfy changing human needs while maintaining or enhancing the natural resource base and avoiding environmental degradation."

A modest but significant contribution to West Asia's efforts to achieve sustainable agriculture is the Mashreq Project, involving scientists from Jordan, Iraq, Syria and the Aleppo, Syria-based International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

(ICARDA). Initiated in 1989 — with financial backing from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the United Nations Development Programme, this project is attempting to introduce farmers in the "barley belt," stretching from Jordan north to Syria and into Iraq, to new, more environmentally benign, farming methods.

The methods are really quite simple. Based upon a comprehensive set of recommendations on fertilizer use, improved barley strains, seed planting methods and other relatively small modifications of current farming practices, the project is now entering its second phase. If all goes well, the environment in this vast area will be spared further deterioration, while at the same time it will provide a more abundant and reliable food supply to

the growing population. While participating scientists are anxious not to claim success yet, they are on the right road to creating a better, more productive and sustainable environment for the farmers in this area.

Reversing current agricultural trends in West Asia is a long-term, time-consuming process. As the scientists working in the Mashreq Project know all too well, the results of their work will not become altogether apparent for some time. But by pooling their energy and know-how with the resources and experience of international research organizations, they represent an important step forward in the pressing effort to save the environment.

The writer is a communications specialist with the ICARDA-Amman office.

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Invitation for submission of pre-qualification data for the connection of Shidiya mine to ARC Railway line.

The closing date for the above mentioned submission of pre-qualification data is extended until 12 noon Saturday, June 16, 1993, instead of Wednesday Dec. 30 1992. All other terms and conditions remain the same.

Best regards,
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D.G.
A.R.C.

Lebanon rejects

(Continued from page 1)

mountain trails by sympathizers and villagers.

A prominent evictee, Professor Aziz Dweik, held a news conference at the camp at midday to announce five demands he said he wanted Mr. Jouni to carry to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

They included a call for stepped up international pressure to rescind the expulsions and ensure the flow of food, water and medical supplies to the camp until the evictees were allowed to return.

Israeli officials acknowledged Monday that they had expelled 10 men by mistake, one of them a 16-year-old arrested for scribbling wall slogans.

Bassem Siouri, 16, the youngest in the camp, said he had a feeling that he was one of those who could be returned.

"I'm very happy that I may be going back, but my happiness would be complete if the whole camp could go back with me," said Siouri, tears filling his eyes.

The camp's spokesman, Gaza physician Abdul Aziz Rantisi, said: "We're not going to force anyone to return. If they want to go home, they are free to do so. If they choose to stay with us to demonstrate solidarity with the cause, they're more than welcome."

France said Tuesday that despite rebuffs it was still trying to bring relief supplies.

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MS-DOS5	9/1	14/1	
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WINDOWS	9/1	13/1	MS-DOS
MS-DOS5	23/1	28/1	
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Arafat wants new U.N. action

(Continued from page 1)

all for the council to adopt a resolution based on Chapter 1 of the U.N. Charter — which assigns the possible use of force — Mr. Arafat said: "We say that, but we are for the implementation of the resolution all means."

He said it was up to the Security Council to decide on the measures to take.

The Palestinian attitude is that the expellees should return home in order to assure the resumption of the peace talks," Mr. Arafat said.

The PLO has said the 14-month-old Middle East peace talks cannot resume until the expellees return home.

No date has been set for the next round of talks. However, at a Palestinian leadership meeting in Tunis last weekend the PLO ignored calls from headline groups including the Islamic resistance movement Hamas for a full withdrawal from the talks.

"Jess justified the killings to his own people by saying the Hatti opposed the American landings," one diplomatic source said. "He seems to have feared that the Americans might ask the intellectuals to form a local government."

U.S. troops and Belgian paratroopers began patrolling the town of some 150,000 residents and refugees Monday. Previously they had confined themselves to securing Kismayu's port and airport, leaving the town itself in the hands of Col. Jess.

U.S.-led forces in Somalia, who now total more than 22,000 from 18 countries, have secured eight regional "bridgeheads" for operation restore hope in central and southern Somalia's famine belt from where they will escort food aid to the starving bush.

With that task complete and more men on the ground, commanders say they are turning their attention to imposing order in Mogadishu, a wash with weapons from fighting among rival warlords.

Guns were shot dead four Somalis working for the International Red Cross (ICRC) and one from the relief agency Care Monday in incidents which highlighted continued lawlessness, officials from both agencies said.

Col. Peck said foreign forces would not mount house-to-house searches.

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Economy

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK 26.12.92	TOKYO 29.12.92
Sterling Pound	1.4980	1.5048
Deutsche Mark	1.6205	1.6170
Swiss Franc	1.4675	1.4640
French Franc	5.5225	5.5155
Japanese Yen	124.90	124.57
European Currency Unit	1.2050	1.2068

100 Per 100
European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates

Date: 29.12.1992

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.62	3.50	3.37	3.93
Sterling Pound	7.00	7.10	6.81	6.72
Deutsche Mark	8.87	8.68	8.31	7.66
Swiss Franc	6.00	5.81	5.63	5.35
French Franc	10.50	10.75	10.37	9.50
Japanese Yen	3.81	3.68	3.50	3.68
European Currency Unit	10.31	10.13	10.00	8.93

London bid rates for interest exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Interbank Interest Rates

Date: 29.12.1992

Currency	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	333.35	6.50	Silver	3.69	.080

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 29.12.1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6900	0.6920
Sterling Pound	1.0370	1.0422
Deutsche Mark	0.4261	0.4282
Swiss Franc	0.4714	0.4738
French Franc	0.1252	0.1258
Japanese Yen	0.5531	0.5559
Bank Guilder	0.3785	0.3804
Swedish Krona	0.0966	0.0971
Italian Lira	0.0475	0.0477
Spanish Ptas	0.02092	0.02103

Other Currencies

Date: 29.12.1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
Liberal Dollar	1.7970	1.8200
Liberal Lira	0.03548	0.03644
Small Riyal	0.1800	0.1850
Large Riyal	2.2700	2.3000
Qatari Riyal	0.1850	0.1872
Qatari Punt	0.2020	0.2150
Qatari Dirham	1.7560	1.7820
Qatari Dirham	0.1450	0.1472
Qatari Dirham	0.3239	0.3439
Qatari Dirham	1.4283	1.4483

Index for Amman Financial Market

Index	27.12.92 Close	28.12.92 Close
All Share	172.53	173.02
Banking Sector	125.42	125.05
Insurance Sector	187.66	189.61
Industry Sector	234.31	236.06
Service Sector	246.67	246.96

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session in the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
1.2635/40	1.6180/90	1.8150/200
1.4665/75	33.17/27	146.5/147.5
124.57/67	7.0550/1050	6.8520/620
6.2320/30	1.5100/10	3332.85/333.35

U.S. airlines fly over dismal '92 seeking profits

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. airline industry had a notoriously dismal 1992 but analysts say next year may end up being a bridge to a profitable 1994.

"Clearly, 1992 will be marked as the third year of financial hemorrhaging for the U.S. airline industry," said Salomon Bros analyst Julius Maldutis, who dubbed 1993 a likely "transition year" to sharp profits later.

The new year, however, is likely to start inauspiciously with a rash of poor earnings reports for 1992.

The nine major U.S. airlines lost \$12.2 billion in the first half of 1992, bringing total losses since 1990 to \$7.5 billion.

The U.S. industry has been hit by a series of body blows, starting with Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and the consequent near-doubling of fuel prices. A year later, recession and the Gulf war kept passengers at home.

This year, weak domestic traffic trends and the fare cutting they spawned defeated all hope for profits.

The fare cutting followed an attempt by the biggest U.S. airline, AMR Corp.'s American Airlines, to put fares into a four-tier system it called "value pricing."

What one analyst dubbed "the mother of all fare wars" followed. As they flew plane loads of passengers paying half price, the airlines tallied big losses in late spring and summer, usually their most profitable period.

With a third straight year of losses in the offing, airlines began to retrench.

Analysts said aircraft cancellations and deferrals form the seeds of recovery. Domestic capacity should rise by less than three per cent in 1993, while traffic should rise by 3.5 per cent, Mr. Maldutis predicted.

Air fares have also been creeping higher, setting the stage for higher yields and a relatively better profit picture in 1993, said Kidder Peabody Co. analyst Samuel Buttrick.

Sudan sells textile firm to Korean company

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese government has sold the Sudan Textile Factory in Khartoum to the Giant South Korean firm Daewoo for \$60 million.

The factory was closed down in 1988 due to weak management, industrial unrest, and lack of hard currency to import spares.

The factory is 80 per cent owned by Khartoum, while the rest of its shares are held by the Sudanese billionaire Khalil Osman.

It was not clear whether Khartoum consulted the Kuwaiti government or Mr. Osman on the sale by the government but the factory is reported to have accumulated debts running into millions of Sudanese pounds.

Sudan backed Iraq over its seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

The official Sudanese News Agency quoted Mr. Mustafa as saying the factory, one of the country's biggest employers, would absorb more than the 9,000 workers it used to employ.

He said Daewoo was expected to pay 15 per cent sales tax on top of the cost of the factory.

Turmoil, crisis fail to ground Mideast airlines

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The Middle East's airlines are flying high again, two years after the Gulf crisis threatened to doom the region's aviation industry.

But while most have managed to operate through political turmoil, the region's carriers still face the same problems as other airlines afflicted by high costs and recession.

"They've got the people back in the planes but not in a way to create profits," said John Brindley of the International Air Transport Association in Geneva.

"The yield has not increased, and costs, of course, have increased."

To help improve their bottom lines, many Mideast carriers have undertaken major expansion projects, and new airports are being built to accommodate such growth.

Kuwait Airways Corp., ransacked by the Iraqis during the Gulf war, is negotiating financing for between seven and eight new Airbus jets.

Al Rajhi, the Saudi-based Islamic bank, already has arranged financing for two A320s and Airbus Industrie has agreed to buy back six older A300s that had been hijacked by Iraq.

Sborouk Airlines, a charter carrier formed by Egypt Air and Kuwait Airways, has ordered four Boeing 757s for \$240 million and taken options on four others. They will operate between the Middle East and Europe.

Bahrain-based Gulf Air, owned by Bahrain, Oman, Abu Dhabi and Qatar, has ordered six long-range Airbus A340s at \$600 million and has taken options on six more.

Gulf Air lost \$74 million in 1990 because of the Kuwait crisis, but posted a \$48 million profit last year and saw a three per cent increase in passenger volume.

Al Rajhi also is providing financing for another A310-300 for Gulf Air's main rival, Dubai-based Emirates Airlines, adding to that carrier's fleet of seven A310s. Five were purchased this year. Emirates has ordered seven Boeing 777s with an option on seven more, making it the first Middle East airline to order the world's largest twin-jet passenger aircraft.

Bahrain forecasts \$1 billion aluminium industry

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain expects to produce aluminium worth \$1 billion from its massive smelter by the year 2000 after having doubled its production capacity this year.

"We will be producing 460,000 tonnes of aluminium every year and our production will be worth \$1 billion in five to seven years," Bahrain's Gulf Daily News quoted Development and Industry Minister Youssef Shirawi as saying.

Officials have said a \$1.5 billion expansion programme at Aluminium Bahrain (ALBA), one of the world's biggest aluminium plants, was completed this month and a new smelting line was up and running.

They said, however, that it would not be producing at full capacity until there were contracts for all its output.

ALBA is 77 per cent-owned by the Bahrain government, 20 per cent by the Saudi Public Investment Fund and three per cent by the German group Breton Investment.

Mr. Shirawi said Bahrain expected to develop numerous new downstream aluminium projects during 1993 and an aluminium research centre would be set up to bolster the local industry.

"I expect 12 schemes that will be announced or set up. We will have one new project a month next year," he said.

The minister said economic activity was beginning to thrive in Bahrain after suffering during the Gulf war.

The governor of the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) said that international confidence in Bahrain as a major financial centre had been growing since the end of the Gulf war in 1991.

"If anything...our reputation has been enhanced. And in parallel with that enhanced reputation, confidence has grown," Abdullah Saif told the Gulf Daily News.

"This is demonstrated by the number of licence applications received by the BMA and the substantial increase in OBU (offshore banking unit) assets and liabilities since the end of the Gulf crisis," Mr. Saif said.

Russia to join IFC

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's parliament has adopted a resolution advocating membership of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a unit of the World Bank which specialises in aid to the private sector.

ITAR-TASS news agency said IFC membership would grant Russia access to large foreign loans and investments, speed up privatisation and facilitate creation of a stock market.

TASS said Russia's share in the capital of the IFC would amount to 3.42 per cent, making it one of the largest shareholders. It said Moscow would have to pay about \$28.5 million to become a member and about \$17 million more in the first membership year.

The IFC has been helping with Russia's privatisation programme, launched this year as a key element of its moves to switch to a market economy.

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U.S., Russia reach accord to get rid of hundreds of nuclear arms

GENEVA (AP) — Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger Tuesday announced an agreement with Russia on a START II treaty to sharply reduce nuclear missiles maintained by the two countries.

Mr. Eagleburger said after a 90-minute meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev that they were ready to report back to their presidents.

"We have made very good progress," Mr. Eagleburger said. "We now have a text we can put to the two presidents."

He said he was flying back to Washington later in the day. Mr. Eagleburger said presidents George Bush and Boris Yeltsin will review the agreement and hopefully "we'll have news for you in the next few days" about plans to sign it.

The treaty would remove hundreds of deadly long-range nuclear missiles on both sides and cut the stockpiles of U.S. and Russian strategic weapons to about one-third of current levels.

Answering questions on a cold and dreary winter day, Mr. Eagleburger left open the possibility of further negotiations to fine-tune the agreement.

"It's up to the presidents to look at the documents and see if we've made sufficient progress to sign an agreement," he said.

"If there are changes they would want to suggest, obviously, we'd have to come back together again."

Mr. Kozyrev said Mr. Eagleburger had given reporters "an accurate description" of the situa-

tion. "So please now, wait for news from President Bush and President Yeltsin," he said.

Neither Mr. Eagleburger nor Mr. Kozyrev provided details on how the last technical problems were resolved.

In Moscow, the independent news agency Interfax, quoting unidentified "well-informed sources," said the treaty would be signed at summit in Geneva or Paris.

In Washington, early reaction to the announcement was positive. Congressman Lee Hamilton, incoming chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, called the agreement "a great gift to the nation and to the world."

Mr. Hamilton, speaking on Fox Morning News, said "it certainly gives a good sendoff for President Bush as he leaves the presidency."

Leading up to the agreement, Mr. Eagleburger and Mr. Kozyrev had a working dinner until midnight while experts on the two sides discussed the remaining issues and brought periodic reports to them.

Mr. Eagleburger met at the Russian mission for more than three hours Monday with Mr. Kozyrev and Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, and then they had lunch together while experts from the two sides held a working session.

Mr. Grachev's appearance at the negotiating table for the first time had seemed to indicate Moscow was ready to make a deal.

Mr. Kozyrev, in particular, had

expressed optimism all along.

Asked hours before it was announced whether he expected an agreement, Mr. Kozyrev said: "I am ready to bet a bottle of whiskey. We will do such work here to make it possible for our presidents to have the right decision after the negotiations here."

The foreign minister quickly amended his remark to say: "Positive decision."

Under the treaty, hundreds of the world's deadliest nuclear weapons — long-range, land-based missiles with multiple warheads — would be banned and stockpiles of U.S. and Russian strategic warheads would be pared to about one-third of current levels.

It would be Mr. Bush's third major arms control agreement. In 1990, he signed an east-west agreement to cut troops and tanks in Europe. Last year, he signed a treaty with Russia to cut strategic nuclear weapons by about one-third.

The final, technical questions included how many SS-18 silos the Russians will be permitted to retain and how bombers are to be counted under the treaty.

The Russians wanted to use the silos in which their heavy SS-18 missiles are deployed for SS-25 missiles. This could make the now-mobile SS-25s less vulnerable to a U.S. nuclear attack, although the Russians' motive apparently is to save money in implementing the treaty and re-vamping their nuclear forces.

The United States had sought destruction of the silos as a pre-

caution against potential attack from some future hardline regime in Moscow.

But Mr. Eagleburger had told reporters on the flight to Geneva that negotiations on the issue had come down to how many silos the Russians could retain under the treaty.

Also, he said, American negotiators had agreed to permit Russia to convert some of its 170 six-warhead SS-19 missiles to single-warhead missiles. The issue is how many.

Another sticking point concerned how missiles aboard bombers are counted and how many missiles are allocated for particular warplanes.

A key part of the problem involves U.S. B-1 bombers that carry nuclear weapons. The bombers would not be counted under the treaty once the weapons were removed.

However, the United States wants to preserve the option of being able to rearm the B-1s with nuclear weapons as they replace B-52 bombers being retired. If so, the Russians say, the B-1s should be counted under the U.S. total.

Under the treaty, each side would be required to get down to 3,000 to 3,500 strategic warheads by 2003.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty permits the United States to have about 8,500 strategic warheads, using lenient counting rules for bombers, and the Russians about 6,500.

The two sides now have a total of about 20,000 warheads.



A man dressed like a clown waves a Brazilian flag in front of the Brazilian congress building in Brasilia Tuesday after the resignation of President Fernando Collor de Mello (AFP photo)

Collor resigns, evading impeachment

BRASILIA (R) — Suspended President Fernando Collor de Mello resigned Tuesday minutes after the opening of his senate impeachment trial in a move that could salvage his political life by allowing him to return to public office.

"The defence awaits calmly your acceptance of this resignation (to) put an end to the impeachment process of President Fernando Collor," said Mr. Collor's defence attorney Jose Moura Rocha, shortly after the senate session opened.

The 43-year-old Collor, who took the helm of Latin America's largest nation in March 1990 promising to end corruption, faced impeachment on charges he made millions from a government influence peddling scheme.

Mr. Collor was rumoured to have been preparing the move after failing to win further delays in the trial.

By resigning, Mr. Collor avoided a whole host of penalties that would have gone along with impeachment if convicted.

Besides removing him from the presidency, impeachment would have barred him from holding public office for eight years and stripped him of privileges due to ex-presidents — like secret service protection and use of a diplomatic passport.

Supreme Court President Sydney Sanches, immediately suspended the impeachment trial to study legal implications of the resignation on the impeachment proceedings.

Itamar Franco, Brazil's acting president since Mr. Collor was suspended, was to be officially sworn in as president Tuesday.

Brazil's financial markets reacted to the resignation positively with Sao Paulo's stock exchange rising 4.4 per cent just after the announcement was

broadcast on live television. The market later fell on profit-taking, sliding 1.6 per cent.

"Collor is gone for good. Now we have to see what Itamar Franco will do with the economy after he takes over," said one trader. Meanwhile, congressional leaders called a special session of both houses to review the situation as Mr. Collor's opponents called for the impeachment proceedings to continue, despite the resignation.

The Collor scandal battered Brazil's struggling economy and left policy making on hold as while the impeachment battle played itself out over months.

Mr. Collor, a former governor of the small northeastern state of Alagoas, was suspended by the lower house of congress on Sept. 29 after a months-long investigation by a special congressional committee into the corruption charges.

U.N. accuses Khmer Rouge of killing 12 Vietnamese

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas massacred 12 ethnic Vietnamese, including four children, and two Cambodians in a raid on a village in central Cambodia, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday.

"NADK (Khmer Rouge) elements arrived in two boats. They asked villagers to identify the Vietnamese. Those identified were summarily executed," the spokesman said.

It was the latest and most serious of a string of attacks against Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia. U.N. peacekeepers blame most on the Khmer Rouge, whose leaders have openly threatened the Vietnamese community with violence.

A further 14 people were wounded in the night raid on Kompong Tralach district in Kompong Chhnang province on Sunday, U.N. spokesman Eric Berman said.

The victims died from small

arms fire and shrapnel wounds. Six of the 12 Vietnamese victims were female and six male. Four were children.

"Two of the victims were Cambodian men. It's not known if they were targeted or killed accidentally," Mr. Berman said. "There's very strong evidence that indicates the attack was racially motivated," he said.

The wounded were taken to local hospitals. It was not known how many of them were Vietnamese.

Phnom Penh government troops returned fire on the retreating Khmer Rouge, the U.N. spokesman said.

A leaflet written in Khmer was left at the scene. A preliminary translation indicated it was a warning to the local population with references to the U.N. peacekeeping force, the spokesman said.

U.N. civilian police who had spoken to villagers were confi-

dent the attackers were Khmer Rouge — officially known as the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK).

Khmer Rouge leaders in Phnom Penh, where they reside under the terms of the 1991 Paris peace accord, could not be reached for comment.

The killings were the latest in a spate of attacks on the ethnic Vietnamese population of Cambodia.

Last week the bodies of three ethnic Vietnamese fishermen were found tied together by their necks floating down the Mekong River in Stung Treng province.

In July eight Vietnamese, including a baby, were murdered in a southern village.

The Khmer Rouge have made deep-seated hatred of Vietnamese a main point of their political propaganda and cite the Vietnamese presence in Cambodia as the main reason they are refusing to comply with the U.N.

peace accord.

Vietnamese troops invaded Cambodia to oust a brutal Khmer Rouge government in December 1978. They stayed in support of a pro-Hanoi government until 1989.

The Khmer Rouge charges that soldiers still remain, although peacekeepers of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) have been unable to find any.

The guerrillas also say the settlers are part of a continued attempt by Vietnam to colonise its smaller neighbour.

Vietnamese have lived in Cambodia for generations, mostly working as fishermen and artisans. The arrival of UNTAC has attracted droves more, including an army of prostitutes.

UNTAC estimates at least 200,000 ethnic Vietnamese are in Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge say they number more than one million.

7 killed in Peru pre-poll violence

LIMA (AP) — Seven people were killed in a third day of pre-election violence as Maoist rebels set off car bombs outside the Japanese and Chinese embassies, attacked a police station and tried to rob a bank.

Two police officers were killed late Monday when the Shining Path guerrillas attacked a police station.

President Alberto Fujimori, who is the son of Japanese immigrants, has pledged to defeat the Shining Path guerrillas before his term ends in July 1995. More

than 25,000 Peruvians have been killed since the rebels launched their insurgency in 1980.

The Shining Path has usually launched violent campaigns before elections to sabotage voting. Peruvians were electing mayors across the country Tuesday.

The rebels on Sunday shot dead a candidate for mayor in a district of Lima's port of Callao and detonated a car bomb in the coastal city of Huacho, 130 kilometres north of Lima, wounding at least 13 people, police said.

The attacks came after rebels

Saturday detonated car bombs against the Chinese, Austrian and Costa Rican embassies.

The attacks Saturday coincided with the birthday of former Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung, who would have been 99. No casualties were reported.

The rebels hung several dozen dead dogs from lampposts with signs condemning China's current leader, Deng Xiaoping, as a traitor to true communism. The Shining Path used this tactic when it began its insurgency in May 1980.

Gunmen net \$8m in Brooklyn heist

NEW YORK (AP) — Robbers sneaked up on an armoured truck company's unarmed security guard as he watched television, tied him up and looted more than \$8 million from the vault, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said Monday.

The guard, who was working alone, got his legs after about 20 minutes and triggered an alarm, which brought police. Officers found the vault doors open and the robbers gone.

It was the city's second-biggest cash theft, and the FBI said it might have been an inside job. The security guard said the robbers approached from behind as he watched television late Sunday in the command room of Hudson armoured car courier service in Brooklyn.

"He felt a gun at the back of his head and a voice ordered him onto the floor," said FBI spokesman Richard DeFilippo.

The guard said he was unable to see the robbers as his wrists and ankles were bound with wire. "But judging from the sounds of voices, he thought there were five or six of them," Mr. DeFilippo said.

The building's elaborate security system, which included video cameras and surveillance at each entryway, was "apparently neutralised" by the bandits, officials said. They did not elaborate.

The FBI said a significant portion of the money was in new \$100 bills, with serial numbers in sequences.

"The FBI would like to hear from anyone who sees new \$100s sequentially numbered," Mr. DeFilippo said.

He said there was no indication the guard was blindfolded, and he did not know whether the guard may have been asleep when the robbers arrived shortly before midnight.

Officers refused to say whether the vault was open when the robbers arrived. But the FBI said it was considering the possibility the heist was an inside job. "Any time security systems are trashed or neutralised, our suspicions very often turn to the possibility of complicity within the company," said James M. Fox, special agent in charge of the FBI's New York office.

From shipping manifests, in-

vestigators determined that the robbers got four bags of cash totalling \$8,268,680. Mr. DeFilippo said. He had no details about whom the money belonged to.

The one-storey, windowless building, which has no sign to identify its business or even its address, is in an industrial neighbourhood of warehouses and small factories near the Brooklyn waterfront.

Company officials refused to speak to reporters. The city's biggest cash theft was \$11 million discovered missing on Dec. 12, 1982, after thieves broke into SENTRY armoured car. However, authorities later said a larger portion of the money had been stolen over time by insiders.

On April 29, 1985, four armed men broke through a wall at a Wells Fargo terminal in Lower Manhattan and drove off with \$7.9 million in an armoured car. Six ski-masked bandits took \$5 million in cash and \$800,000 in gems from the Lufthansa terminal at Kennedy International Airport on Dec. 11, 1978.



No laughing ne

HARARE (AP) — Television newscasters were from duty for burlesque laughing during the night an official at state-run said. Taisi Vera and Welch, co-anchors of news, "lost their cool" when Vera read a Christmas eve of a woman gave birth in the bathroom, said a spokesman. The broadcast, a script told of how the track but survived. Several complaints were received from viewers and station officials. The presenters will not be state television for three said the spokesman, on anonymity.

Barmaid bites musician's tongue

SEOUL (R) — Police detained a barmaid who and swallowed the tongue of a man who kissed her, police officer said. The old woman, identified Kim, bit the tongue of a man who works in the office said. "I was that time, I bit off his tongue," my bewilderment as he leaped on me and kissed officer quoted Kim. The police. The woman, leniency, said she had only part of the tongue, er said. "We will not charge her as the man want her to be punish said."

Transvestites abreast of new technique

BANGKOK (R) — A transvestites has been tourists after enticing suck their tongues impregnated nipples, police said. They arrested Bangkok transvestites woman after complaints a keyed from a Syrian man. The woman, named Koy, was robbed of a Rolex \$4,000 and 15,000 baht cash, police said. The woman threatened her three transvestites to put the victims to sleep, a police man said. One was explaining that the adopted because many customers did not drink

View from the at

TOKYO (R) — Spurned female colleague, a Tol hid in the woman's attic days to videotape every her life at home, police said. Tuesday. The peep equipped with a video and tapes, was caught in space above the woman ment after she summoned. "The case is now before prosecutors, but I can't say he's facing charges breaking and entering into the woman's apartment for three days," a police said. He said the man, 35, after the woman rejected advances, admitted to entering apartment several times past six months using key.

Court gets snif

OSLO (R) — A cave, the astrophysics student, bare of official taking an exam because body odour, has been on a Norwegian court to dress properly before the university. The 35-year-old man, who has been in prison more than 14 years, after the court to overrule the ty's decision to ban taking exams and bar the campus. He also says he is a Buddhist and has for meditation. "H case — they said his nuisance to other people. The lawyer, Petter Graver, reason for the ters. The man has to state's legal costs of \$45,000 but said not con-

French police helicopter jail

TOULOUSE, France (R) — A prisoner, who rent a helicopter to break has been captured by French police in Toulouse. The prisoner, who was tried to helicopter from a private company, police said, and wounded a gendarme held two hostages at before police detail. Police said the man, carrying pistols, saw guns, a fold-up ladder as masks, apparently to snatch prisoners from nearby Lannemezan, himself had been an i

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Mother Teresa honoured with Russian award

NEW DELHI (AP) — Mother Teresa, the world's most famous nun, was honoured Monday with a Russian award for her contribution to the protection of children around the world. The 82-year-old Nobel peace laureate received the 1992 Leo Tolstoy International Award at her mission in the eastern city of Calcutta. Press Trust of India news agency reported. The honour — a gold medal and a citation — was handed over to Mother Teresa by Russian Consul General S.S. Gavrilov, the report said. Describing herself unworthy of such an honour, the Roman Catholic nun said her lifelong mission is to put smiles on the faces of destitute children around the world, Press Trust said.

Nine convicts executed in South Korea

SEOUL (AP) — Nine people who had been convicted of murder, rape and other charges were executed Tuesday. The Ministry of Justice said it was the first capital punishment carried out this year. Seven were executed in Seoul and two in the southeastern city of Taegu, all by hanging, it said. Among the executed were Chang Hyo-Sang, 65, convicted of murder and murder attempt, and Kim Young-Ho, 34, murder and rape. The ministry said the executions reduced the number on death row to 50. South Korea does not have a high crime rate, but the government hands out death sentences for "antisocial crimes," such as murder and habitual rape.

Grand jury indicts Alabama governor

MONTGOMERY, Alabama (AP) — Governor Guy Hunt was indicted Monday by a grand jury on charges of taking \$200,000 from his inaugural fund for personal use. He reported to the county jail, saying, "I'm going to fight." The 13-count felony indictment included charges of theft, conspiracy and ethics violations. It said Mr. Hunt conspired with his inaugural fund accountant, Gene McKenzie, and two former aides. The grand jury said it had returned four indictments, but the others were not immediately available. A lawyer for Mr. McKenzie said the accountant also had been indicted, but did not have details of the charges against him. "I'm totally innocent," Mr. Hunt said as he left the Montgomery county jail after the indictment was issued. "I'm going to fight. I'm going to serve out my term." The indictment did not specify what Mr. Hunt allegedly did with the \$200,000. Mr. Hunt has said he had a campaign debt from a losing race for governor in 1978 and mortgaged some property to keep from going bankrupt. Earlier, his press office issued a blistering statement calling the case a political concoction by a Democratic attorney general against Alabama's first Republican governor this century. But the statement later was withdrawn. Mr. Hunt, a Republican, remains in office. Under Alabama law, public officials charged with crimes retain their office until conviction.

Aborigines to claim part of Brisbane

BRISBANE (R) — Aborigines plan to lodge a claim for part of the central business district of Brisbane, an aboriginal spokesman said Tuesday. The city's Bunjalung aboriginal people had a right to part of the capital of Queensland under the historic Mabo high court ruling, spokesman Sam Watson said. In June this year, the Australian high court overruled the notion that Australia was an uninhabited land when white settlers arrived 200 years ago and held that aborigines had "native title" to land. Archaeologists have dated aboriginal remains in Australia back some 45,000 years.

Filipino sentenced to life in controversial murder case

MANILA (Agencies) — A prominent Filipino was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison for killing an American and a Swede in a case that has been criticised as underscoring flaws in the justice system.

Claudio Teehankee, 51, was convicted of killing the son of a U.S. embassy official and the stepdaughter of a Swedish businessman. He also was found guilty of the attempted murder of the son of a Finnish bank official in shootings July 13, 1991, in Manila's swank Dasmariñas village neighbourhood.

Critics claimed Mr. Teehankee, who had been on trial since August 1991, had been given preferential treatment in jail because of connections with police and politicians.

His late father, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Claudio

Teehankee, swore in Corazon Aquino as president in 1986 and later served as Philippine ambassador to the United Nations before his death in New York in November 1989.

In Tuesday's ruling, Judge Job Madayag handed down two life sentences, one of eight to 10 years for attempted murder and a fine of 2.9 million pesos (\$116,000).

Appeal is automatic for life sentences. There is no capital punishment in the Philippines.

In addition to the fines, Mr. Teehankee was ordered to pay three million pesos (\$120,000) in legal fees and a total of 19 million pesos (\$760,000) in damages to the three victims' families.

He was convicted of shooting the three teenagers after accusing them before dawn as they returned from a party.

Iran-contra prosecutor who tongue-lashed the president for issuing the pardons.

Removing Mr. Walsh likely would touch off an uproar akin to the one after Richard Nixon fired Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox, perhaps Mr. Nixon's most painful self-inflicted wound — short of recording his conversations on tapes later used to incriminate him.

If Mr. Bush is called to testify, he is likely would be asked to justify his decision to pardon former Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and five other former government officials. And he probably would be asked to give a public accounting of his own role in the Reagan administration's arms-for-hostages deal with Iran, about which he has said only that he knew little.

Mr. Weinberger, who opposed the sale, was to have gone on trial Jan. 5 on charges of lying to Congress and prosecutors about the matter.

The president, quail hunting in Texas this week, has been quiet about all this, but Mr. Walsh has not usually inaccessible, the prosecutor opened a television campaign to denounce the pardon as an interference with his own duties. He accused Mr. Bush of "misconduct" and of completing a "cover-up."

Mr. Walsh also said he now would turn his attention to Mr. Bush's own role in the affair and into why he kept quiet until a few weeks ago about the existence of typewritten he dictated at The Time, while he was vice-president. The White House calls the notes inflammatory and says it is willing to make them public.

Mr. Walsh's deputy, San Francisco attorney James Brogan, who was to have prosecuted Mr. Weinberger, suggested that Mr. Bush, issuing the pardons, may have acted to protect himself

Iran-contra pardons will haunt Bush in retirement

By Mike Feinsilber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President George Bush said his Iran-contra pardons were a simple act of Christmas compassion, but it is now clear his action will dog his remaining days in office and vex him in retirement.

The pardons changed the atmosphere in a capital that had been getting ready to celebrate a new president's installation.

The drama has not yet played out. Mr. Bush may be called before grand juries and congressional committees, probably after he leaves office in three weeks. No chief executive, having lost his presidential mantle, could relish that prospect.

At the same time, Mr. Bush is being pushed by Senate Republican leader Bob Dole to remove Lawrence Walsh, the

independent counsel law will become even more divisive.

The law, a Watergate-spawned reform, expired Dec. 15, but Mr. Walsh remained free to continue business. A filibuster by Republican senators killed a bill to extend the law.

Sen. Carl Levin said hearings by his governmental affairs subcommittee next year into the way the law has worked could provide an "appropriate and likely" forum for questioning Mr. Walsh, Mr. Weinberger — and Mr. Bush. Mr. Levin said the pardon had the effect of shielding Mr. Bush "from a court presentation, examination and cross-examination, under oath."

— Mr. Clinton will find it hard to keep from being drawn into the furor. The president-elect has said the pardons might send a signal "that if you work for the government you're beyond the law."

